

Conf Pam
q #126

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Proclamation.
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PROCLAMATION

By the President of the Confederate States of America.

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, has by Proclamation announced the intention of invading this Confederacy with an armed force, for the purpose of capturing its fortresses, and thereby subverting its Independence, and subjecting the free people thereof to the dominion of a foreign power,

And, whereas, it has thus become the duty of this Government to repel the threatened invasion, and to defend the rights and liberties of the people, by all the means which the laws of Nations, and the usages of civilized warfare, place at its disposal,

Now, therefore, I, JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my Proclamation, inviting all those who may desire, by service in private armed vessels on the high seas, to aid this Government in resisting so wanton and wicked an aggression, to make application for Commissions or letters of Marque and Reprisal to be issued under the Seal of these Confederate States.

And I do further notify all persons applying for letters of Marque to make a statement in writing, giving the name and a suitable description of the character, tonnage and force of the vessel, and the name and place of residence of each owner concerned therein, and the intended number of the crew, and to sign said statement and deliver the same to the Secretary of State, or to the Collector of any port of entry of these Confederate States, to be by him transmitted to the Secretary of State. And I do further notify all applicants aforesaid, that before any Commission or letter of Marque is issued to any vessel, the owner, or owners thereof, and the Commander for the time being, will be required to give bond to the Confederate States with at least two responsible sureties not interested in such vessel, in the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars; or, if such vessel be provided with more than one hundred and fifty men, then in the penal sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, with condition that the owners, officers and crew, who shall be employed on board such commissioned vessel, shall observe the laws of these Confederate States, and the instructions given to them for the regulation of their conduct. That they shall satisfy all damages done contrary to the tenor thereof by such vessel during her Commission, and deliver up the same when revoked by the President of the Confederate States.

And I do further specially enjoin on all persons holding offices, Civil and Military, under the authority of the Confederate States, that they be vigilant and zealous in discharging the duties incident thereto.

And I do moreover solemnly exhort the good people of these Confederate States, as they love their country, as they prize the blessings of free government, as they feel the wrongs of the past and those now threatened in aggravated form, by those whose enmity is more implacable because unprovoked, that they exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted for the common defence, and by which, under the blessings of Divine Providence, we may hope for a speedy, just and honorable peace.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand,

{ L. S. } and caused the Seal of the Confederate States to be affixed, this seventeenth day of April, A. D., 1861.

(Signed.)

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

By the President:

R. TOOMBS, Secretary of State.

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